

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for use in populating an electronic
5 address book, comprising:
 searching through at least one archive of e-mails
 for an e-mail address;
 evaluating the e-mail address based on a first
defined criterion; and
10 adding the e-mail address to an address book if the
first criterion is satisfied.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the searching
includes searching an "In" field, a "sent" field and a "cc"
15 field.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
evaluating includes determining if the e-mail address
already exists in the address book, and not adding the e-
20 mail address in the address book if it already exists in
the address book.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the evaluating
includes evaluating the e-mail address based on a second
25 defined criterion; and
 the adding includes adding the e-mail address to the
address book if both the first and the second criterion are
satisfied, and not adding the e-mail address to the address
book unless both the first and second criteria are
30 satisfied.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

determining if the archive from which the e-mail address was retrieved includes an organization;

organizing the address book according to at least a portion of archive from which the e-mail address was

5 retrieved; and

the adding includes adding the e-mail such that the e-mail address is added according to the organized address book.

10 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
generating a retrieved list of e-mail addresses
retrieved during the searching that satisfy the first
criterion; and

the adding includes adding the e-mail addresses if
15 the e-mail address is confirmed to be added.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
generating a verification list of at least the e-mail address added to the address book.

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8. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
receiving confirmation of additions based on the
retrieved list prior to the adding the e-mail address.

25 9. A method for use in generating and maintaining
an address book, comprising:

accessing an electronic archive containing e-mail
addresses;

searching the archive for the e-mail addresses;

30 retrieving one or more e-mail addresses;

applying a first criterion to a first retrieved e-mail address; and

adding the first retrieved address to an electronic address book if the first criterion is met.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the applying
5 includes applying a second criterion to the first retrieved address; and

the adding includes adding the first retrieved address to the electronic address book if both the first and second criteria are met.

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11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
supplying a plurality of criteria options; and
receiving a selection of criteria including the
first and second criteria.

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12. The method of claim 10, wherein the archive includes an archive of e-mails; and

the searching includes searching a plurality of fields associated with each e-mail of the archive.

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13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
accessing an external archive associated with an external device;

searching the external archive for e-mail addresses;
25 retrieving e-mail addresses from the external archive;

applying the first and second criteria; and
adding the retrieved e-mail addresses from the external archive if the retrieved e-mail addresses from the
30 external archives meet both the first and second criteria.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

determining if the archive includes an organizational folder;

determining if the e-mail address was retrieved from the organization folder;

5 generating a folder within the addresses book; and
the adding includes adding the first e-mail address to the electronic address book in the generated folder.

15. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

10 generating a nickname in association with the first e-mail address; and

adding the nickname associated with the first e-mail address to the address book.

15 16. An apparatus for use in generating and updating an electronic address book, comprising:

an electronic address book configured to store one or more e-mail addresses;

20 means for scanning configured to search one or more archives for at least one e-mail address and to retrieve the at least one e-mail address;

25 means for filtering configured to receive the at least one e-mail address from the means for scanning and to pass the e-mail address if the e-mail address satisfies a criterion of the means for filtering; and

means for adding configured to add the at least one e-mail address to the address book if the at least one address is passed by the filter.

30 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the archive includes a plurality of e-mails having a plurality of fields; and

the means for scanning is configured to scan the plurality of fields of the plurality of e-mails.

18. A computer readable medium encoded with code
5 segments for use in populating an electronic address book,
the computer readable medium comprising:

a code segment for searching through at least one
electronic archive of e-mails for e-mail addresses;

a code segment for evaluating a retrieved e-mail
10 address based on a first defined criterion; and

a code segment for adding the e-mail address to an
address book if the first criterion is satisfied.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

15 a code segment for evaluating the e-mail address
based on a second criterion; and

the code segment for adding is configured to add the
retrieved e-mail address to the electronic address book if
both the first and second criteria are satisfied.

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20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

a code segment for supplying a plurality of criteria
options; and

a code segment for receiving a selection of criteria
25 including the first and second criteria.